

15 January 2000

Dear Jane Henny -

I have long been interested (just at a concerned citizen) about the overuse of antibiotics - both in the fact that it appears that antibiotic drugs are too often prescribed (and requested by parents ignorant of the problem) for children not necessarily in need of them - AND the overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock, especially pigs and chicken.

You know all the reasons why we must be very judicious of our use with antibiotics in animals to better protect human health - and yet many, many chicken and livestock producers in my acquaintance have no knowledge of the seriousness of this issue. It will only escalate as the population rises in this country.

I have just been reading about agriculturalists in Europe who seem to be far ahead of us in this crucial kind of regulation and now the EU itself has mandated this ban.

But here in the US, the FDA is still in the "talking stages" - something which can drag on forever ( witness land use issues and gun control). FDA needs to take action NOW in banning all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics which are used to treat humans. Please move this kind of regulation along with all possible speed; it should be far above the

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